

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction apparatus connected to a residents database storing therein identification data of the residence and also connected to a center which executes an examination for issuance of passports through a communication line, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center;

an image input unit for monitoring the applicant and for inputting an image of an applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to the procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a sign input for inputting a sign of the applicant; and

a control section for transmitting the monitored image and the data inputted by each of said input units to said center by using said communication unit and orchestrating said center so as to determine whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not based on the monitored image and the identification data for the applicant which has been recorded in said resident data base and on each of the transmitted input data;

~~wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site from said image input unit, and the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial~~

institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein said residents database is located in an institution other than said center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein said control section is configured to request certificate data stored in said residents database to be transmitted from said institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction apparatus connected through a communication line to a center which executes an examination of issuance of passports as well as to a residents database which stores identification data of residents for providing services for issuing passports to applicants, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center and with said residents database;

an image input unit for monitoring the applicant and for inputting an image of an applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a sign input unit for inputting a sign of the applicant; and

a control section for transmitting the monitored image and the data inputted by each of said input units and the identification data of the applicant fetched using said communication unit

to said center by using said communication unit and orchestrating said center so as to determine whether the passport is to be issued or not based on the monitored image and the transmitted data;

~~wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site from said image input unit, and~~ the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein said residents database is located in an institution other than said center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein said control section is configured to request certificate data stored in said residents database to be transmitted from said institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction apparatus connected to a center which provides the data for issuance of a certificate for an applicant and executes examination for issuance of passports for processing passport transactions through communication with the center via a communication line, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center;

an image input unit for monitoring the applicant and for inputting an image of the applicant;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transaction according to the procedure displayed on said display unit;

a printer unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of the passport on a passport paper prepared previously;

an issuer unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with said printer unit; and

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by said issuer unit;

wherein ~~the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site from said image input unit, and~~ said control unit sends the monitored image and the data inputted by each of said input units to said center using said communication unit and orchestrates said center so as to determine whether the passport is to be issued or not based on at least the monitored image, and when it is determined that the passport is to be issued, makes the printer unit print the image of the applicant inputted by said image input unit and contents of the passport onto a passport paper prepared previously, and makes the issuer unit issue the passport obtained by printing;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein a first database is located in an institution other than said center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein said control unit is configured to request certificate data stored in said first database to be transmitted from said institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 4 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising a passport data input unit for inputting the contents of an issued passport as data; wherein said control unit orchestrates, when reissuing a passport, said display unit and said data input unit so as to amend the data required for application of the passport of data inputted from the passport data input unit.

Claim 5 (Previously Amended): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 4; wherein said passport data input unit reads the image of an issued passport and recognizes the characters in the read image in order to input the data.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising;

a receipt issuer unit for issuing receipt authorization data for checking an applicant when a passport is issued to the applicant on a later day; and

a storage unit for storing therein authorization data printed on the receipt issued by the receipt issuing unit; wherein said control unit determines, when the authorization data is inputted by the data input unit, whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not by verifying the authorization to the storing unit, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, prints the image of the applicant inputted by said image input unit and contents of the

passport on a passport paper previously prepared using the printer unit and issues the passport obtained by printing using said issuing unit.

Claim 7 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3; wherein said image input unit is a digital camera.

Claim 8 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising a voice outputting unit for providing guidance for procedure of passport transaction with voice; wherein said control unit outputs messages previously prepared with voice according to progress of procedure of passport transaction by controlling said voice outputting unit.

Claim 9 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3; wherein said display unit is a display unit based on an integrated touch panel system.

Claim 10 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3; further comprising:

a direct payment unit for payment of a charge for passport application with cash; wherein said control unit controls input of cash and change by controlling operations of said direct payment unit.

Claim 11 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3; wherein said communication unit is connected to a center of a financial institution, said apparatus further comprises an indirect payment unit connected to a center of a financial institution for processing

a charge for passport application through communication between said communication unit and said financial institution, and said control unit controls payment with the financial institution by controlling operations of said indirect payment unit.

Claim 12 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control unit reads out, when issuing a certificate for an applicant, data for issuing a certification for the applicant from the center with the communication unit, and prints the certificates based on the read-out data using said printing unit.

Claim 13 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said data input unit executes data input from a storage medium storing therein data required for passport transaction.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction apparatus for processing passport transaction with a storage medium which stores the data required for issuance of passports and the data for identifying applicants for passports, said apparatus comprising:

an image input unit for monitoring the applicant and for inputting an image of the applicant;

a reader unit for reading out the data from said storage medium;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transactions according to the procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a printer unit for printing an image inputted by said image input unit and the contents of the passport onto a passport paper previously prepared;

an issuer unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with said printing unit;

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, reading by said reader unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by the issuing unit;

~~wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site from said image input unit, and~~ said control unit determines whether the applied passport is to be issued or not based on the data read out by said reading unit and the monitoring image, and when it is determined that the passport is to be issued, prints the image of applicant inputted by said image input unit and the contents of the passport previously printed onto a passport paper using the printing unit and issues the passport obtained by printing using the issuing unit; and

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein a first database is located in an institution other than a center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein said control unit is configured to request certificate data stored in said first database to be transmitted from said institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 15 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14 further comprising a passport data input unit for inputting the contents for an issued passport as data; wherein said control unit orchestrates, when reissuing a passport, said display unit and said data input unit so as to amend the data required for application of the passport of data inputted from the passport data input unit.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 15; wherein said passport data input unit reads the image of an issued passport and recognizes the characters in the read image in order to input the data.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14 further comprising:

a receipt issuer unit for issuing receipt authorization data for checking an application when a passport is issued to the applicant; and

a storage unit for storing therein authorization data printed on the receipt issued by the receipt issuing unit; wherein said control unit determines, when the authorization data is inputted by the data input unit, whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not by verifying the authorization to the storing unit, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, prints the image of the applicant inputted by said image input unit and contents of the passport on a passport paper previously prepared using the printer unit and issues the passport obtained by printing using said issuing unit.

Claim 18 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14; wherein said image input unit is a digital camera.

Claim 19 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14 further comprising a voice outputting unit for providing guidance for procedure of passport transaction with voice; wherein said control unit outputs messages previously prepared with voice according to progress of procedure of passport transaction by controlling said voice outputting unit.

Claim 20 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14; wherein said display unit is a display unit based on an integrated touch panel system.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14 further comprising:

a direct payment unit for payment of a charge for passport application with cash; wherein said control unit controls input of bills and coins by controlling operation of said direct payment unit.

Claim 22 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14; wherein said communication unit is connected to a center of a financial institution, said apparatus further comprises an indirect payment unit connected to a center of a financial institution for processing a charge for passport application through communication between said communication unit and said financial institution, and said control unit controls payment with the financial institution by controlling operations of said indirect payment unit.

Claim 23 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14; wherein said control unit reads out, when issuing a certificate for an applicant, data for issuing a certification for the applicant from the center with the communication unit, and prints the certificate based on the read-out data using said printing unit.

Claim 24 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14; wherein said data input unit executes data input from a storage medium storing therein data required for passport transaction.

Claim 25 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 14; wherein said storage medium is an IC card.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction method applicable to a system in which a system is connected via a communication line to a center for providing data for issuance of a certificate to an applicant and executing examination for issuance of a passport for processing passport transactions via communication with the center said method comprising:

monitoring an applicant at said center;

inputting data for checking the applicant;

accessing said center and determining whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not by using the data inputted and said monitoring of said applicant;

inputting, when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, an image of the applicant; and

printing the image of the applicant and contents of description on the passport onto passport paper previously prepared, and issuing the passport obtained by printing;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein a first database is located in an institution other than said center which executes the examination of issuance of passports

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein a control section is configured to request certificate data stored in said first database to be transmitted from said institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing or issuing the passport.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction method applicable to a system for processing passport transactions with a storage medium storing therein data required for issuance of passports as well as data for identifying applications for passports comprising:

monitoring an applicant;

reading out of data required for issuance of a passport from the storage medium and data for identifying an applicant;

determining whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not according to the data read out in the reading out data and said monitoring of said applicant;

inputting, when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, an image of the applicant; and

printing the image of the applicant inputted and contents of description on the passport and issuing the passport printed;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein a first database is located in an institution other than a center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein a control section is configured to request certificate data stored in said first database to be transmitted from said institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing or issuing the passport.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction system comprising:

a center accessibly connected to a first database storing therein data for issuing certificates to applicants, registering data for issuance of passports in a second database, and executing examination of issuance of passports; and

at least one passport transaction apparatus connected via a communication line to said center for processing passport transactions by communicating with said center; wherein said passport transaction apparatus comprises:

a communication unit for communicating with said center;

an image input unit for monitoring the an applicant and for inputting an image of the applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transaction according to the contents of procedure displayed on the display unit;

a printer unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of description on the passport onto a passport paper previously prepared;

an issuer unit for issuing the passport obtained by printing with said printer unit; and

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by said issuer unit; while the control unit accesses the center using the communication unit, transmits the monitored image of the applicant to the center, asks the center to make determination as to whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not according to the data inputted by the data input unit and the monitored image, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, has an image of the applicant inputted by the image input unit and contents of description of the passport printed onto passport paper previously prepared and the passport obtained by printing issued with the issuing unit; and the center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request from the passport transaction apparatus to the first and second databases respectively by the way of communication with the communication unit and returns a reply as to whether each applied for passport is to be issued or not according to a result of verification;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institute that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein said first database is located in an institution other than said center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and
wherein said control unit is configured to request certificate data stored in said first
database to be transmitted from the institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in
reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 29 (Original): A passport transaction system according to claim 28; wherein said image input unit and communication unit are connected to each other, and said control unit transfers the image inputted by the image input unit via said communication unit to the center.

Claim 30 (Original): A passport transaction apparatus according to claim 28; wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises a voice input unit for inputting a voice and a voice outputting unit for outputting a voice, and said communication unit transfers the voice inputted with the voice input unit to the center and also outputs the voice transferred from the center to the voice outputting unit.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A passport transaction system according to claim 28; wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises a direct payment unit for processing a charge for passport application with cash, and said control unit controls receipt of bills and coins by controlling processing by the direct payment unit.

Claim 32 (Original): A passport transaction system according to claim 28; wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises an indirect payment unit connected with the communication unit via a communication line to a center of a financial institution for processing

a charge for passport application through communication between the communication unit and the financial institution, and the control unit controls procedure for payment to and from the financial institution by controlling the processing by the indirect payment unit.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction system comprising:

a first center having a first database with data required for issuance of certificates for applicants registered therein;

a second center for registering data for issuance of passports in a second database and also executing examination for issuance of passports; and

at least one passport transaction apparatus each connected via a communication line to the first and second centers for processing passport transactions for communicating with the first and second centers, wherein said passport transaction apparatus comprises:

a communication unit for communicating with the first and second centers;

an image input unit for monitoring ~~the~~ an applicant and for inputting an image of ~~an~~ the applicant for a passport;

a display unit for providing guidance with displays of contents of procedure for passport transactions;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transactions according to the contents of procedure displayed on the displayed unit;

a printing unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of description of the passport onto passport paper previously prepared;

an issuing unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with the printing unit; and

a control unit for providing controls over communication by the communication unit, image input by the image input unit, displays by the display unit, data input by the data input unit, and issuance of passports by the issuing unit; while the control unit accesses the first and second centers respectively using the communication unit, transmits the monitored image of the applicant to the centers, verifies the applicant for a passport according to the data inputted with the data input unit, makes a determination as to whether an applied for passport is to be issued or not based on at least said monitored image, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, has the image of the applicant inputted by the image input unit and contents of description on the passport printed with the printing unit onto passport paper previously prepared and also has the passport obtained by printing issued with the issuing unit;

the first center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request for verification of an applicant for passport form the passport transaction apparatus to the first database by way of communication with the communication unit and returns a reply according to a result of verification as to whether the applicant ins the person he claims to be or not; and

the second center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request from the passport transaction apparatus by way of communicating with the communication unit to the second database and returns a reply according to a result of verification as to whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication;

wherein said first database is located in an institution other than said second center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable, and
wherein said control unit is configured to request certificate data stored in said first
database to be transmitted from said institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in
reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 34 (Original): A passport transaction system according to claim 33; wherein said image input unit and communication unit are connected to each other, and said control unit transfers the image inputted by the image input unit via said communication unit to the center.

Claim 35 (Original): A passport transportation apparatus according to claim 33; wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises a voice input unit for inputting a voice and a voice outputting unit for outputting a voice, and said communication unit transfers the voice inputted with the voice input unit to the center and also outputs the voice transferred from the center to the voice outputting unit.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A passport transaction system according to claim 33: wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises a direct payment unit for processing a charge for passport application with cash, and said control unit controls receipt of bills and coins by controlling processing by the direct payment unit.

Claim 37 (Original): A passport transaction system according to claim 33; wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises an indirect payment unit connected with the communication unit via a communication line to a center of a financial institution for processing

a charge for passport application through communication between the communication unit and the financial institution, and the control unit controls procedure for payment to and from financial institution by controlling the processing by the indirect payment unit.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction apparatus that communicates with a first host computer which handles issuance of passports, a second host computer which handles data of residents, and a third host computer which handles payments from an account, comprising:

- a communication unit that communicates with one of the first, second, and third host computers;

- a display unit that displays a guidance for filing an application for a passport;

- a data input unit that inputs data required in a procedure of the filing, the data including a PIN of an applicant for the passport;

- an image input unit that inputs an image required for the passport;

- a signature input unit that inputs a signature as data; and

- a control section that controls the communication unit, the image input unit, the display unit, the data unit, and the signature input unit; ~~wherein~~

~~the data required in the procedure of the filing includes a PIN of an applicant for the passport, the control section,~~ communicates with the first host computer and the third host computer through the communication unit, ~~so as to identify~~ identifies the applicant based on a result of authentication by the PIN, and ~~so as to carry~~ carries out a procedure for the payment from the account specified by the PIN;

wherein a residents database is located in an institution other than a center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein said control section is configured to request certificate data stored in the residents database to be transmitted from the institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction apparatus that communicates with a first host computer for handling issuance of passports and capable for communicating with a second host computer which handles data of residents so as to obtain residential data, and capable of communicating with a third host computer which handles payment from an account so as to identify the applicant based on a result of the authentication by the PIN, comprising:

a communication unit that communicates with the first host computer;

a display unit that displays a guidance for filing an application for a passport;

a data input unit that inputs data required in a procedure of the filing, the data including a pin of an applicant for the passport;

an image input unit that inputs an image required for the passport;

a signature input unit that inputs a signature as data; and

a control section that [[a]] controls the communication unit, the image input unit, the display unit, the data input unit, and the signature input unit; ~~wherein~~

~~the data required in the procedure of the filing includes a PIN of an applicant for the passport, the control section, indirectly communicates with the second host computer and the third host computer through the first computer, the control section transmits, the PIN to the first~~

host computer through the communication unit ~~so as to identify the applicant according to the~~
~~PIN~~ to the first host computer through the communication unit, ~~so as to identify~~ identifies the
applicant according to the PIN, and ~~so as to carry~~ carries out a procedure for the payment from
the account specified by the PIN;

wherein a residents database is located in an institution other than a center which
executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein said control section is configured to request certificate data stored in the
residents database to be transmitted from the institution and to use the certificate data transmitted
in reissuing our issuing the passport.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A passport transaction apparatus connected to a
residents database storing therein identification data of the residents and also connected to a
center which executes an examination for issuance of passports though a communication line,
said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communication with the center;

an image input unit monitoring an applicant and for inputting an image of the applicant
for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to the transaction
procedure displayed on the display unit; and

a control section for transmitting the monitored image of the applicant and the data
inputted by the data input unit to the center by using the communication unit;

wherein the applicant is monitored at a remote site from said image input unit, and the control section makes the center determine whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not based on the monitored image and the identification data for the applicant which has been recorded in said resident data base and on each of the transmitted data;

wherein said residents database is located in an institution other than said center which executes the examination of issuance of passports;

wherein one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and

wherein said control section is configured to request certificate data stored in said residents database to be transmitted from the institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing our issuing the passport.